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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/703,888

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EXAMINER

BATES, KEVIN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/703,888

Applicant(s)

BERKMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Bates

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 62-109 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 62-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on May 4, 2007.

Claims 1-61 have been cancelled.

Claims 62-109 have been newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 62-66, 68-72, 74-79, 81-85, and 87-109 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gupta (5913061).

Regarding claims 62 and 93, Gupta teaches an application collaboration system, comprising: a central registry for maintaining configuration information for various components in the system, the configuration information comprising a first set of configuration information and a second set of configuration information (Column 5, lines 55 – 63); and

a first interface and a second interface, the first interface configured to communicate with a first application, and the second interface configured to communicate with a application (Column 5, lines 21 – 38), wherein the first and second applications are not capable of communicating directly with each other (Column 1, lines 44 – 57), wherein the first and second interfaces are coupled to each other and to the

central registry via a communications medium for enabling communication therebetween (Figure 3, elements 202 and the service modules for the central registry), wherein the first interface is capable of receiving the first set of configuration information from the central registry and implementing the first set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith, wherein the second interface is capable of receiving the second set of configuration information from the central registry and implementing the second set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith (Column 11, lines 40 – 51), and wherein the first interface and the second interface are capable of communicating with each other, without interacting with the central registry, to enable information to be exchanged between the first and the second applications (Column 5, lines 21 – 38; Column 1, lines 48 – 57; where the service module sets up the application collaboration module and the connectors send communications through the application collaboration modules to communicate the data between the applications).

Regarding claims 63 and 94, Gupta teaches the system of claims 62 and 93, wherein the first interface is capable of sending an update request to the central registry for a first set of updated configuration information, receiving the first set of updated configuration information from the central registry, and implementing the first set of updated configuration information to operate in accordance therewith, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to change the manner in which it operates (Column 5, lines 55 – 57; Column 11, lines 40 – 51).

Regarding claims 69 and 98, Gupta teaches the system of claims 63 and 94, wherein the second interface is capable of sending an update request to the central registry for a second set of updated configuration information, receiving the second set of updated configuration information from the central registry, and implementing the second set of updated configuration to operate in accordance therewith, wherein implementing the second set of updated configuration information causes the second interface to change the manner in which it operates (Column 5, lines 55 – 57; Column 11, lines 40 – 51, where each connector issues its own request and the configuration is based individually for each connector, see Column 10, lines 42 – 45; 57 – 59).

Regarding claims 76, 82, 102, and 106, Gupta teaches the system of claims 62 and 93, wherein the central registry is capable of sending an alert to the first interface indicating that the first set of configuration information has been changed, and sending a first set of updated configuration information to the first interface, and wherein the first interface is capable of receiving the first set of updated configuration information from the central registry, and implementing the first set of updated configuration information to operate in accordance therewith, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to change the manner in which it operates (Column 22, lines 9 – 24; automatic updates, where it works with both first and second connectors the same).

Regarding claims 64, 70, 77, 83, 95, 99, 103, and 107, Gupta teaches the system of claims 63, 69, 76, 82, 94, 98, 102, and 106, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to change the manner in

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which it processes information that is sent to or received from the first application (Column 18, lines 1 – 7).

Regarding claims 65, 71, 78, 84, 96, 100, 104, and 108, Gupta teaches the system of claims 63, 69, 76, 82, 94, 98, 102, and 106, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to change the manner in which it translates information received from the first application (Column 18, lines 1 – 7).

Regarding claims 66, 72, 79, 85, 97, 101, 105, and 109, Gupta teaches the system of claims 63, 69, 76, 82, 94, 98, 102, and 106, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to change the manner in which it reformats information received from the first application (Column 18, lines 1 – 7).

Regarding claims 68, 74, 81, and 87, Gupta teaches the system of claims 63, 69, 76, and 82, wherein implementing the first set of updated configuration information causes the first interface to implement a different set of business logic (Column 18, lines 1 – 7).

Regarding claims 75 and 88, Gupta teaches the system of claims 69 and 82, wherein the central registry comprises a user interface for enabling a user to change the first set of configuration information into the first set of updated configuration information, and to change the second set of configuration information into the second set of updated configuration information (Column 5, lines 55 – 63).

Regarding claim 89, Gupta teaches the system of claim 62, wherein the central registry is capable of storing the configuration information in both a first registry and a redundant registry, and wherein the central registry is capable of using the redundant registry if the first registry is unavailable (Column 3, line 60 – Column 4, line 6).

Regarding claim 90, Gupta teaches the system of claim 62, wherein the first interface comprises a first interface module for interfacing with the first application, and a first interface queue for storing information that is received from or sent to the first application, and wherein the second interface comprises a second interface module for interfacing with the second application, a second interface queue for storing information that is received from or sent to the second application, and a third interface module for processing information stored in the first and second interface queues to enable information to be exchanged between the first and the second applications (Column 8, lines 15 – 31).

Regarding claim 91, Gupta teaches the system of claim 90, wherein the first interface module is capable of receiving, processing, and storing a first set of information from the first application into the first interface queue, wherein the third interface module is capable of extracting and processing the first set of information from the first interface queue and storing a second set of information into the second interface queue, and wherein the second interface module is capable of extracting and processing the second set of information from the second interface queue, and interacting with the second application to enable information to be exchanged between the first application and the second application (Column 8, lines 15 – 31).

Regarding claim 92, Gupta teaches the system of claim 90, wherein the second interface module is capable of receiving, processing, and storing a first set of information from the second application into the second interface queue, wherein the third interface module is capable of extracting and processing the first set of information from the second interface queue and storing a second set of information into the first interface queue, and wherein the first interface module is capable of extracting and processing the second set of information from the first interface queue, and interacting with the first application to enable information to be exchanged between the second application and the first application (Column 8, lines 15 – 31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 67, 73, 80, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta in view of Butterworth (5457797).

Regarding claims 67, 73, 80, and 86, Gupta teaches the system of claim 63 and configuring the way the interface behaves.

Gupta does not explicitly indicate that the set of updated configuration information causes the interface to change the manner in which it performs load balancing.

Butterworth teaches a distributed enterprise application that allows its interface controls to perform load balancing (Column 21, lines 23 – 33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Butterworth's teaching of enabling load balancing along with fail over in a distributed collaborative application system in order to prevent certain applications from becoming overburdened.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 4, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that the connectors in Gupta cannot communicate data between applications without including the service module. The examiner disagrees, as seen in Column 12, lines 31 – 46 that the Application Collaboration Modules actually controls the communication between the connectors and not the service module and the Collaboration modules are not part of the service modules as seen in Figure 3, elements 200 and 208.

The examiner believes that with adding all new claims and the lengthy prosecution history that a phone interview might be recommended in an attempt to touch base on some of the issues and move this case towards allowability.

Prior Art

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent No. 6779184 issued to Puri, because it teaches communication between applications with an immediatory for translation.

U. S. Patent No. 6256676 issued to Taylor, because it teaches configuring the communication objects between applications.

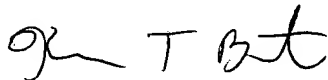
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



KB

July 6, 2007